

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 as follows:

--The bus 100 includes a series of transmission lines (also referred to microstrip lines) 102, 104 and 106 that pass over a slot 108 in a reference (ground or floating) plane 110. ~~Slot 108 is terminated to reference plane 110 by short circuits 118 and 120.~~ The transmission lines 102, 104 and 106 route signals, respectively, from processor 112, 114 and 116 to locations over the slot 108. ~~In some implementations, transmission lines 102, 104, and 106 are terminated at reference plane 110 at points 122, 124, and 126, respectively.~~ When properly excited, the slot 108 functions as a transmission line (referred to as a slotline), i.e., the slot 108 functions as a main bus trunk. The processors 112, 114 and 116, also referred to as agents, communicate with each other by transferring energy from a microstrip (or stripline) transmission mode, i.e., a mode in which signals can travel in the transmission lines, to a slotline transmission mode, i.e., a mode in which signals traveling in the slot 108, and vice versa.--